

HEALTHCARE  
Coordination  
between govt,  
NGO needed

Says Hossain Zillur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NGOs play a crucial role in Bangladesh's healthcare system by delivering essential services, raising awareness, and advocating for policy reforms, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They said NGOs help provide basic healthcare to underserved communities and strengthen engagement with public infrastructure.

However, financial sustainability and integration challenges hinder their effectiveness, they said, raising concerns about duplication of efforts and short-term project-based approaches without lasting impact.

They were speaking at the Health Debate held at CIRDAP auditorium, organised by Power and Participation Research Centre and UHC Forum.

At the discussion, PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman emphasised the need for better government-NGO coordination, improved financial governance, and strategic policy engagement to strengthen healthcare system.

"We must integrate services from government, private sector, and NGOs," he said. "Defining clear roles and creating parallel structures for underserved areas is essential."

He acknowledged that foreign donor dependence won't end soon, urging NGOs to focus on maximising local resources.

The debate explored govt financing for NGOs. "There are many activities the government won't directly implement, but can utilise NGO structures and personnel," said Zillur.

## Preserving the taste of puffed rice

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

The day begins at dawn every day for Rekha Mondal.

She cleans the utensils, heats the earthen stove, and soaks rice in brine for the first steps after waking up.

These are the initial stages of preparing puffed rice in the traditional way.

With machine-made puffed rice gaining ground, traditional methods are gradually fading over time.

A few families in Lara village, under Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila, are still striving against the odds to keep the tradition alive.

Rekha Mondal's family is among



them.

The process of making puffed rice traditionally is simple yet labour-intensive.

"It takes two people to do the work, both usually women. My mother-in-law and I do it at our house from dawn till dusk," said Rekha, 45.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw Rekha and her mother-in-law, Kanan Mondal, 65, sitting around a triple-top earthen stove, making puffed rice.

On the stove were three pots – two earthen and one aluminum – being heated with rice inside.

Each pot serves a different purpose. One of the earthen pots is used to heat rice that was previously soaked in salt water.

The rice is then heated again in the aluminum pot before being placed in hot sand in the other earthen pot.

Once the rice is heated in the hot sand, it turns into white puffed rice in the blink of an eye.

Later, it is separated from the sand using a sieve and packed for sale.

Kanan's son, Biplob Mondal, 25, oversees selling their puffed rice to buyers.

With the help of family members, Biplob Mondal has been producing puffed rice naturally for the last 25 years.

"Apart from salt for taste, we add nothing to the puffed rice. It is completely natural and safe to consume," Rekha said.

Kanan Mondal, who has been preparing puffed rice for the last 25 years, said it is very uncomfortable to work all day amid the heat inside the kitchen.

"However, I have become accustomed to it by now," she said with a smile.



Biplob said they produce around two maunds of puffed rice daily.

"Around 24 kilogrammes of puffed rice can be prepared from one maund of paddy. As such, we need around 400 maunds of paddy every year. Our production usually peaks during Ramadan since the demand for puffed rice rises at that time," he said.

He also mentioned that their puffed rice has good demand even beyond their locality.

"However, the spiraling price of paddy and the commercial production of machine-made puffed rice at lower costs have made it difficult for us to survive," he said, adding that they cannot sell their product at the expected price.

"Dishonest businessmen deceive consumers by selling machine-made puffed rice with harmful additives while falsely claiming it to be traditionally made. They can sell it cheaply and still make a profit, whereas it is hard for us even to recover our production costs," Biplob added.

## Govt cancels Jai Jai Din's permit

STAR REPORT

The government has cancelled the permit of the daily Jai Jai Din in response to an application from the newspaper's former editor Shafik Rehman, alleging that it had violated publishing rules.

This information was revealed in an order signed by Dhaka District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Ahmed yesterday.

Shafik Rehman had complained that the newspaper is not being printed from the authorised press and that false information is being given in the printers' line. In view of this, after taking all necessary measures including issuing a show-cause notice and finding the facts of the complaint, the permit declaration has been cancelled.

According to the order, the publication of Jai Jai Din has violated Section 10 of the Printing and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973.

The order said that considering this violation of rules, the permit under the name of Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury (brother of former Awami League lawmaker and minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury), publisher and printer of the daily Jai Jai Din newspaper, has been cancelled.

The HC also clarified

that those who have already used "Dr" before their names without completing MBBS or BDS degrees till yesterday cannot be punished. But if they use it from today, they can be punished.

The respondents are the secretaries at the ministries of health and law; director generals of directorate of health services and directorate of family planning; and the president and registrar of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

The HC also clarified that those who have already used "Dr" before their names without completing MBBS or BDS degrees till yesterday cannot be punished. But if they use it from today, they can be punished.

The HC bench of Justice Razik Al-Jalil and Justice Shathika Hossain delivered the verdict after holding hearing on the writ petitions.

After the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010 was formulated, Md Shamsul Huda, the then convener of the Bangladesh Diploma Medical

and BDS degree holders can

use 'Dr' before their name.

Meanwhile, outdoor operations at Dhaka Medical College Hospital remained suspended since 10:30am yesterday due to a strike.

Around 1:00pm, this correspondent found the ticket counters still closed, with many patients waiting for services.

Interns and medical students called the strike as part of a nationwide protest to press home their five demands, including restricting the use of the "doctor" title exclusively to MBBS and BDS degree holders.

## 'Dr' title only for MBBS, BDS degree holders: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled that only individuals who completed their MBBS and BDS can use the title "Dr" before their names.

"None other than the people qualifying for the MBBS and BDS degrees can use the prefix 'Dr' under the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010," the court said.

Delivering a verdict on two separate writ petitions, the HC directed the respondents to take necessary steps to designate the writ petitioners, who hold the degree of Diploma in Medical Faculty (DMF), with appropriate prefix within six months.

The respondents are the secretaries at the ministries of health and law; director generals of directorate of health services and directorate of family planning; and the president and registrar of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

The HC also clarified that those who have already used "Dr" before their names without completing MBBS or BDS degrees till yesterday cannot be punished. But if they use it from today, they can be punished.

The respondents are the secretaries at the ministries of health and law; director generals of directorate of health services and directorate of family planning; and the president and registrar of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

The HC also clarified that those who have already used "Dr" before their names without completing MBBS or BDS degrees till yesterday cannot be punished. But if they use it from today, they can be punished.

The HC bench of Justice Razik Al-Jalil and Justice Shathika Hossain delivered the verdict after holding hearing on the writ petitions.

After the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010 was formulated, Md Shamsul Huda, the then convener of the Bangladesh Diploma Medical

and BDS degree holders can

use 'Dr' before their name.

Meanwhile, outdoor operations at Dhaka Medical College Hospital remained suspended since 10:30am yesterday due to a strike.

Around 1:00pm, this correspondent found the ticket counters still closed, with many patients waiting for services.

Interns and medical students called the strike as part of a nationwide protest to press home their five demands, including restricting the use of the "doctor" title exclusively to MBBS and BDS degree holders.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food

Directorate General of Food

Procurement Division

16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka

[www.dgfood.gov.bd](http://www.dgfood.gov.bd)

Date: 12/03/2025

### International Tender Notice for Import of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice

(Package-11, FY- 2024-2025)

International tender in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (Fifty thousand) (5%±) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice.

The particulars of international tender are furnished below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
1	Ministry/Division
2	Agency
3	Procuring entity name
4	Procuring entity code
5	Procuring entity district
6	Invitation for
7	Invitation Ref. No. & date
8	Procuring method
9	Budget and source of fund
10	Development partners (if applicable)
11	Project programme / code (if applicable)
12	Project programme name (if applicable)
13	Package No.
14	Package name
15	Notice publication date
16	Setting of tender schedule
17	Date and time of closing
18	Date and time of opening
19	Name and address of the office(s):
20	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
21	Eligibility of tenderer
22	Brief description of goods or works
23	Brief description of related services
24	Price of tender document (Tk.)
25	Quality & Specification:

All the parameters must be limited to percentage mentioned against each item individually and separately.

Pack No.	Identification of Shipment	Country of origin	Location	Tender security amount (US\$.)	Shipment period
Pack-11	50,000 MT (5%±) Non-Basmati Parboiled rice on CIF Liner out term	Any country of the world except Israel	Chittogram port-60% and Mongla port-40%	US\$ 300,000 (Three hundred thousand) in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Parboiled rice (5%±) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay-Order (No Bank Guarantee is allowed)	40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C. Note that at least 50% of the total quantity must be shipped within 25 days of opening of the L/C.

### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Moniruzzaman
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Procurement)
28	Address of official inviting tender	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-02-41050178 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd">dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd</a>
30	(i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. (ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) waiting for signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sail for destination, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender; (iii) Tenderer who has been awarded NOAs (Notification of Award) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders; (iv) Tenderer whose bid-bonds had been forfeited twice for not submitting PG or signing contract on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from the bid-bonds so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not; (v) Tenderer whose whole PG (Performance Guarantee) had been forfeited for non-supply of the contracted quantity, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from PG so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not.	

Md. Moniruzzaman  
Director  
Procurement Division  
Procurement Division  
Directorate General of Food  
Phone: +88-02-41050178  
Email: [dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd](mailto:dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd)